



CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT

COMPOSITION OF VOTING DISTRICTS AND SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS

FIFTH PUBLIC HEARING

City Council Meeting
April 10, 2018

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Background

- ❖ Last August, Council determined to initiate proceedings to transition the City to a district-based election system.
- ❖ Fifth of six public hearings regarding that transition.
- ❖ To ensure transition is completed in time for November 2018 election, it is recommended that:
 - Council select final map of voting districts.
 - Council determine sequence of voting – which districts to vote in 2018, and which to vote in 2020.
 - Council introduce ordinance.

Public Hearing Process

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010:

- ❖ Two public hearings held prior to drafting of maps:
 - February 6, 2018
 - February 13, 2018

- ❖ Three public hearings to review draft maps:
 - March 13, 2018
 - April 3, 2018 (added)
 - April 10, 2018

- ❖ Final public hearing prior to adoption of ordinance establishing district elections:
 - April 17, 2018

Requirements for District Maps

By State and Federal law:

- ❖ Each Council district shall contain a nearly equal population.
- ❖ District plan shall comply with the California and Federal Voting Rights Acts.
- ❖ Race shall not be the predominate factor for district boundaries.

Requirements for District Maps

By City Charter:

- ❖ Council shall consist of seven Council members.
- ❖ Each Council member shall be elected to four year term.
- ❖ Elections shall be staggered.
- ❖ Mayor shall be selected by vote of Council members.

Optional Factors

- ❖ Communities of interest
- ❖ Respect for other jurisdictional boundaries
- ❖ Compact and contiguous
- ❖ Natural and man-made geographical or topographical features
- ❖ Each district to include public facilities
- ❖ Each district to include commercial interests

Additional Local Factors

- ❖ How best to incorporate recently annexed communities
- ❖ How to address downtown area

Sequencing of Elections

- ❖ Three districts will vote in 2018.
- ❖ Four districts will vote in 2020.
- ❖ Factors to consider may include:
 - Benefits of early representation on Council.
 - Benefits of higher voter turn-out in Presidential Election years.
 - Allowing voters to decide whether to allow incumbents to continue.

Next Steps

- ❖ Selection of final district map
- ❖ Selection of election sequence
- ❖ Introduction of ordinance
- ❖ Final public hearing and adoption of ordinance scheduled for April 17, 2018.

QUESTIONS?